DC

# DARK NIGHTS

1

# BATMAN™ THE RED DEATH

METAL TIE-IN

FABOK 2017 WHite

Williamson
Di Giandomenico
Plascencia

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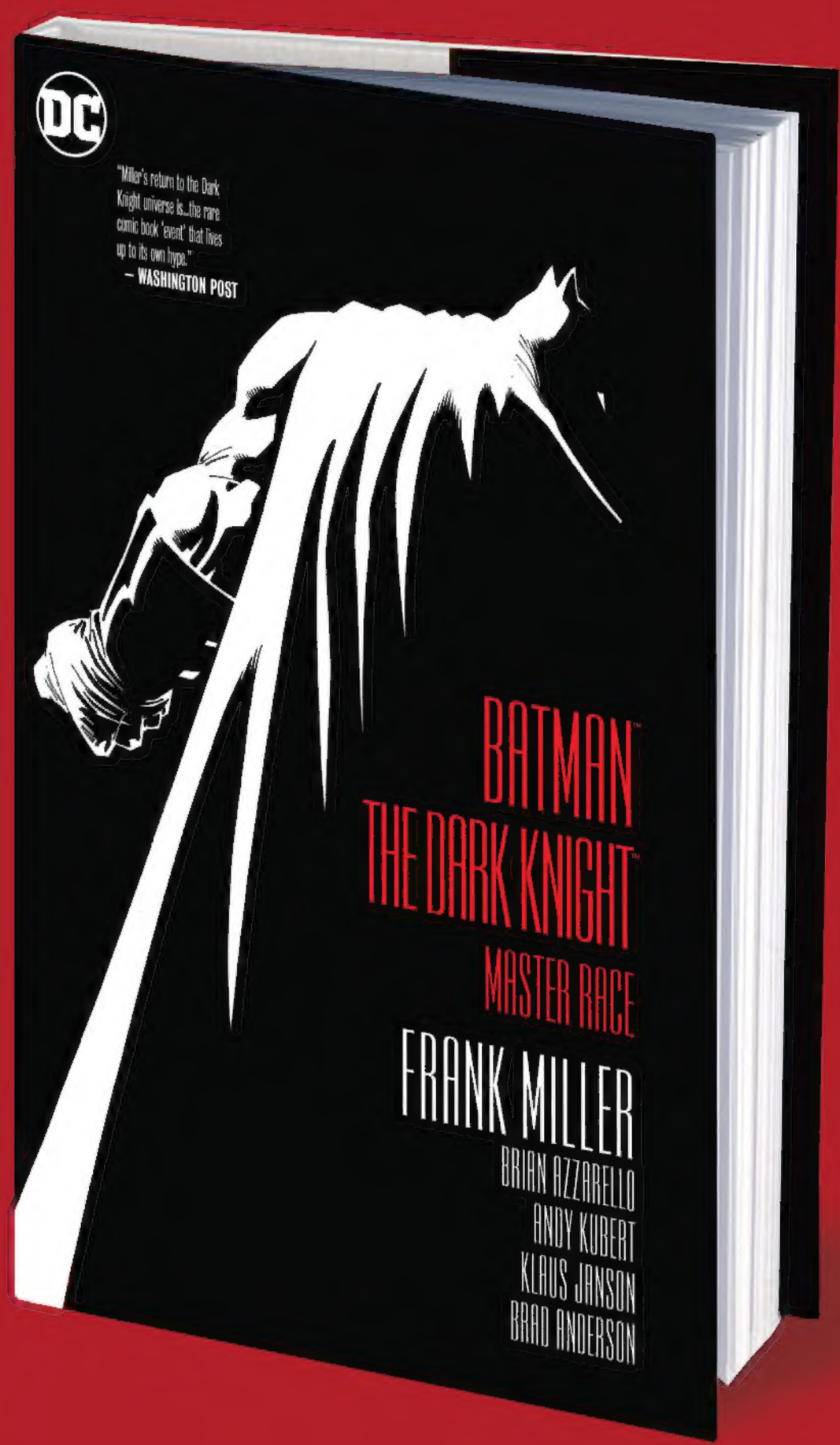


# HE'S BACK.

## FRANK MILLER RETURNS TO HIS LEGENDARY DARK KNIGHT SERIES

"Lives up to the hype."
—WASHINGTON POST

"For fans of Miller's DARK KNIGHT series, this is vital reading."
—NY DAILY NEWS

"A smart, gripping read."
—POPMATTERS

"A masterful return."
—IGN

BATMAN
THE DARK KNIGHT
MASTER RACE
FRANK MILLER
BRIAN AZZARELLO
ANDY KUBERT
KLAUS JANSON

Available September

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1

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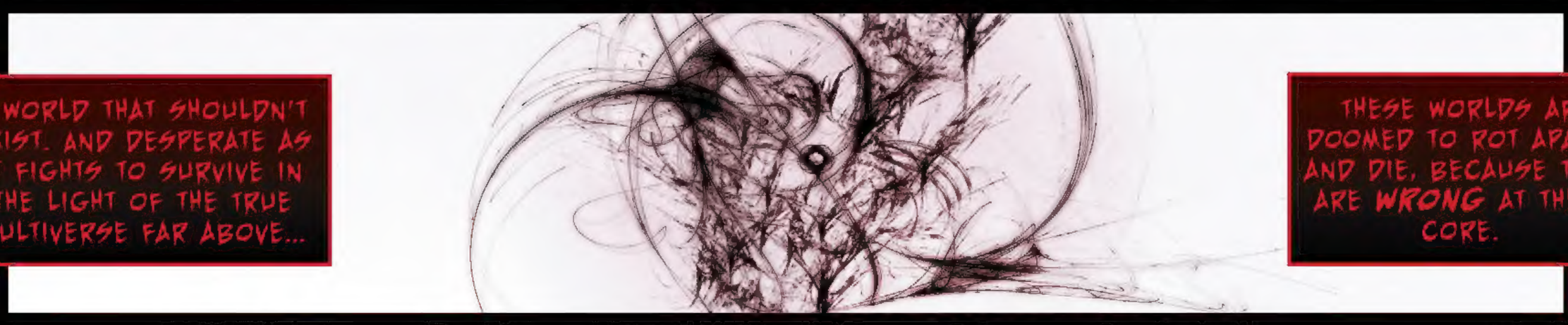
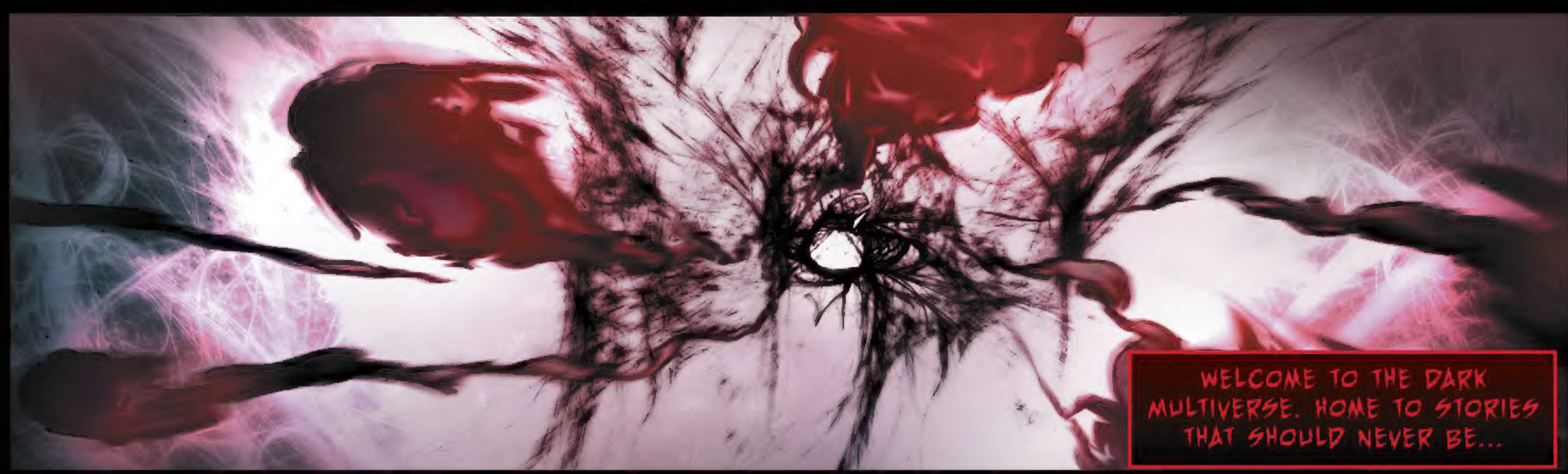
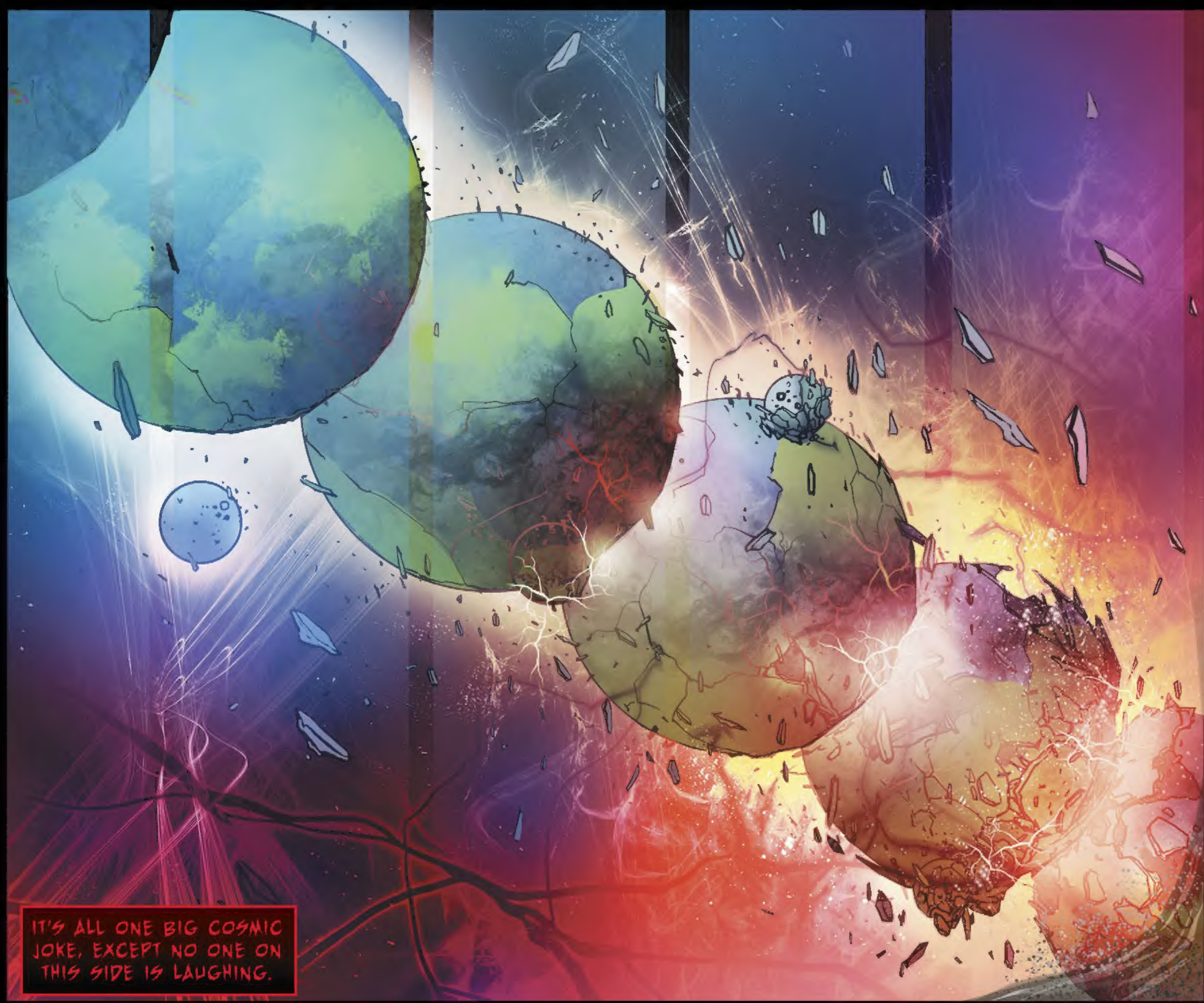
STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE...



...WELL, ALMOST NO ONE...

LISTEN CLOSE, NOW. THIS IS A STORY OF A WORLD'S END, AND A WORLD TRANSFORMED.

WITNESS THE *RISE OF A DARK KNIGHT.*

# BATMAN
## THE RED DEATH
IN
# RIDE THE LIGHTNING

WRITER: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ART: CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO
COLORS: IVAN PLASCENCIA LETTERS: TOM NAPOLITANO
COVER: JASON FABOK AND DEAN WHITE
VARIANT COVER: RICCARDO FEDERICI
ASSISTANT EDITOR: ANDREW MARINO EDITOR: EDDIE BERGANZA
SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER AND JAMES TYNION IV
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

IT'S GETTING WORSE!

CENTRAL CITY IS COMING APART!

Earth -52.

AS USUAL, YOU'RE ALREADY *LATE*, FLASH.
IT'S TIME YOU LET SOMEONE *ELSE* HAVE THE SPEED FORCE.

BATMAN, I TOLD YOU!
I WON'T GIVE YOU THE SPEED FORCE.
I'VE LOST PEOPLE I LOVED, TOO, BUT...
THEN YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND!
IF YOU DON'T HELP ME WILLINGLY... I'LL MAKE YOU!
YOU KNOW THE THINGS I'VE DONE. THE MISTAKES I'VE MADE WITH THESE POWERS IN THE PAST.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE!
UNLIKE YOU, I TRIED TO BE...
"...AND IT COST ME MY FAMILY!"
USING ONE OF MIRROR MASTER'S OLD TRICKS... REALLY?
ALL THE ROGUES' WEAPONS, WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'LL SUCCEED WITH THEM AGAINST ME, WHEN THEY COULDN'T?
YOU'RE RIGHT--

BLAAAM!

VRROOOMMMM

--MY TOYS ARE BETTER!

IT DIDN'T HAVE TO COME TO THIS. I ASKED YOU FOR *HELP* AND YOU REJECTED ME!

IF OUR ROLES WERE FLIPPED I WOULD HAVE USED EVERY TOOL AT MY DISPOSAL TO GET YOU WHAT YOU NEEDED.

CARRIE AFTER KILLER

YOU CAN'T TURN BACK THE CLOCK!

WHOOOSH

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY. I AM. BUT IT WON'T END THERE.

WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAVE EVERYONE... EVERYTHING... *TOGETHER.*

YOU'RE RIGHT...

YOU'RE A GOOD *FRIEND,* FLASH.

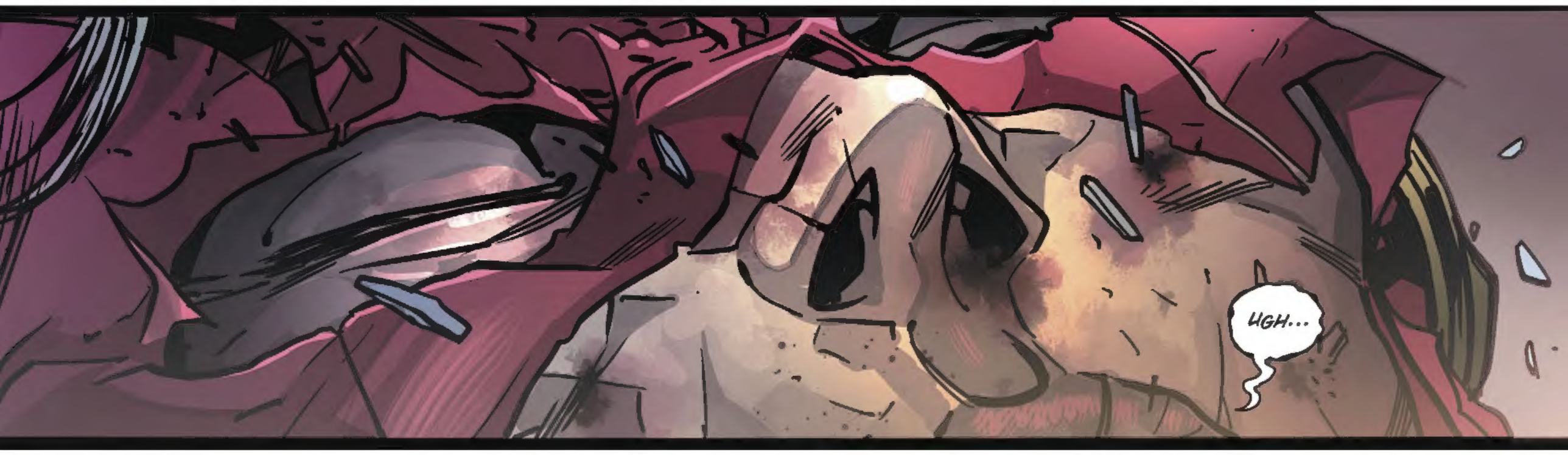
I COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU...

AND YOUR COMPASSION.

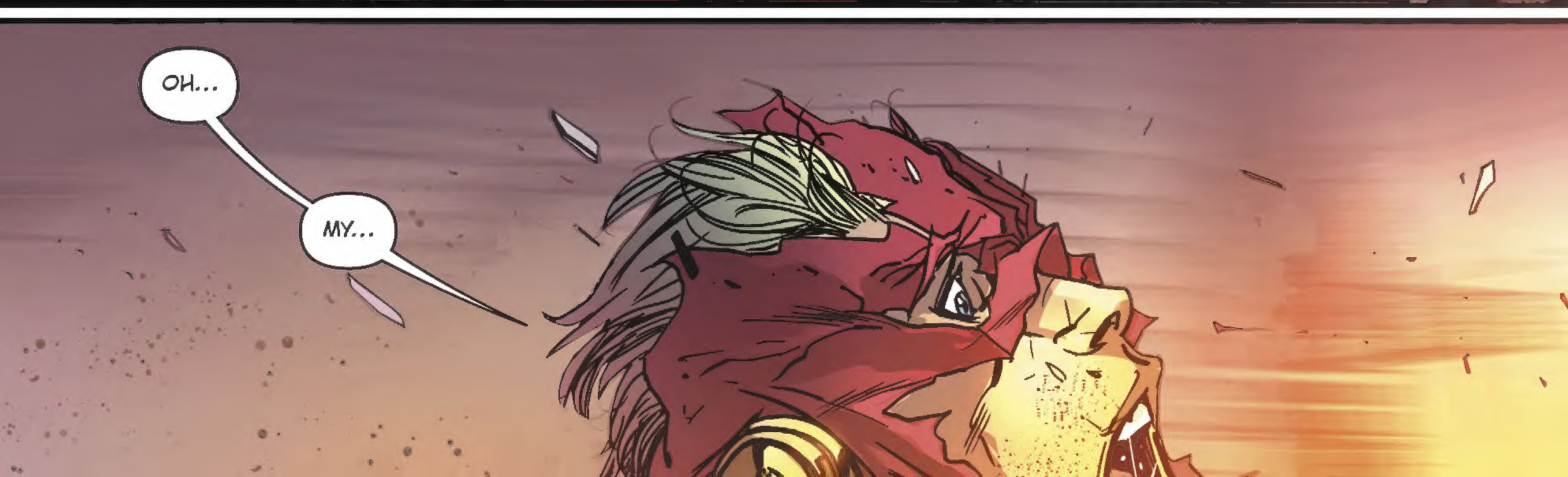
YOU'VE JUST BEEN *INJECTED* WITH THE *CRYOSTASIS* FORMULA DEVELOPED BY DR. VICTOR FRIES. IT'S WHAT HE USES TO KEEP HIS BELOVED NORA ALIVE.

I ESTIMATE YOUR INCREASED METABOLISM SHOULD *BURN* IT OFF IN *THREE SECONDS.*

BUT I WON'T NEED THEM!
KRAK


UGH...

WH-WHERE AM I?


OH...
MY...

GOD!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I STUDIED YOUR DESIGNS FOR THE ***COSMIC TREADMILL*** AND REPURPOSED ITS ENGINE TO LET ME HARNESS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE SPEED FORCE!

I WILL RACE INTO THE SPEED FORCE... AND ***STEAL*** IT FROM YOU!

BRUCE... DON'T...?

THE MISTAKE I MADE WHEN I VOWED TO MY PARENTS THAT I WOULD SAVE GOTHAM IS THAT I WAS THINKING TOO ***SMALL.***

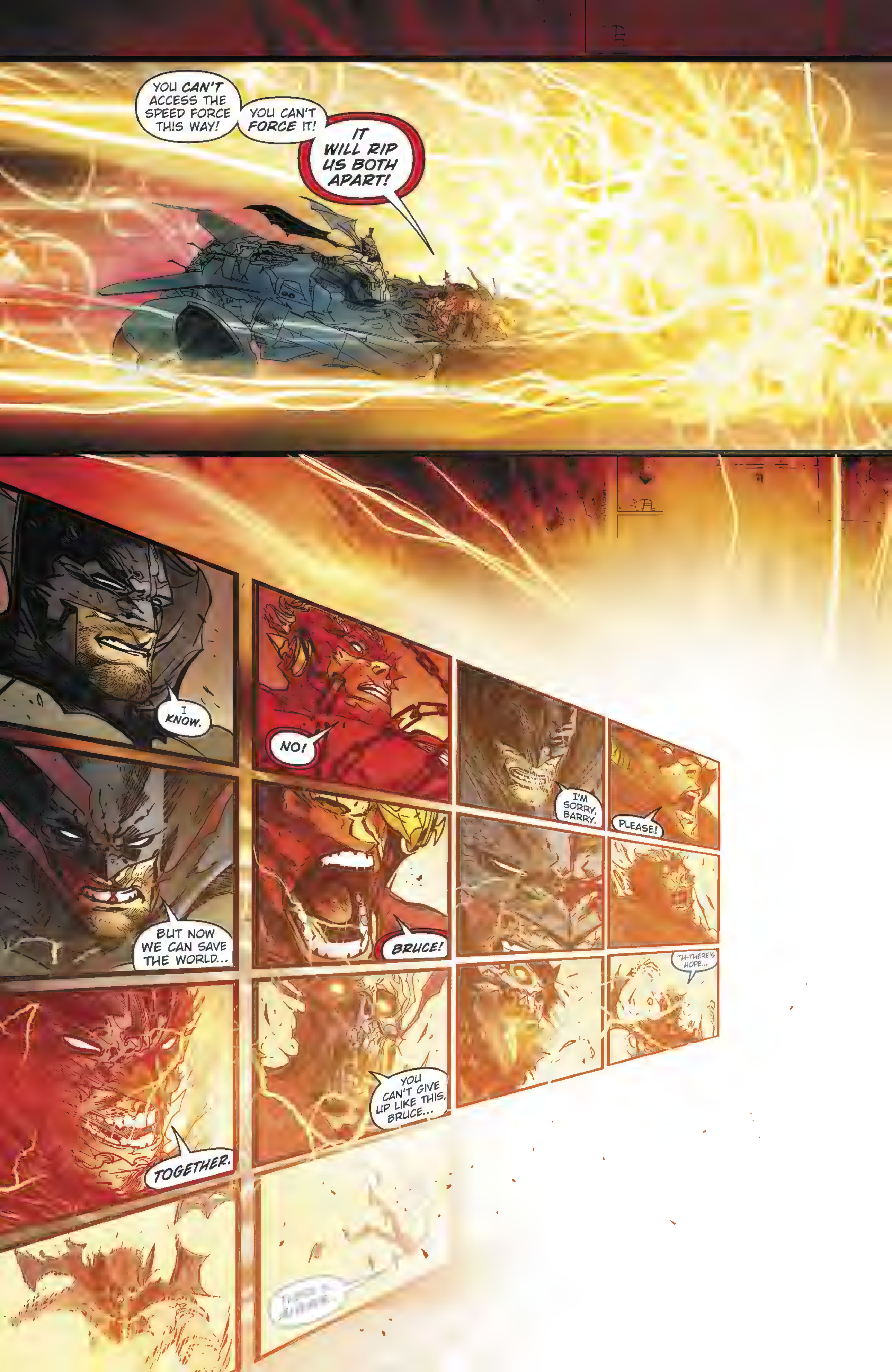
I SHOULD HAVE PROMISED TO ***SAVE THE WORLD.***

SLAM

AWOOSH

AAAHHH!!!

KRAKAKAKA


YOU CAN'T ACCESS THE SPEED FORCE THIS WAY!
YOU CAN'T FORCE IT!
IT WILL RIP US BOTH APART!
I KNOW.
NO!
I'M SORRY, BARRY.
PLEASE!
BUT NOW WE CAN SAVE THE WORLD...
BRUCE!
TH-THERE'S HOPE...
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP LIKE THIS, BRUCE...
TOGETHER.

Gotham City.

EVER SINCE THE RED SKIES APPEARED, CRIME HAS ESCALATED AT AN UNHEARD-OF RATE IN GOTHAM WITH NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN!

BEGIN EVACUATION PROCEDURES IMMEDIATELY.

RIOTS! LOOTING!

WE NEED BACKUP! NOW!

WORST CRIME WAVE IN GOTHAM CITY HISTORY!

THE BACKUP IS DEAD!

IT'S TIME WE BLOW UP THE BRIDGES AND TURN IT INTO A NO-MAN'S-LAND AND FINALLY...

KILL GOTHAM OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THIS WAY! I KNOW A BACK WAY OUT OF DOWNTOWN!

I'M SO SCARED!

WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING IS A FORM OF THANATOPHOBIA.

A PARTICULARLY HARSH CASE OF THE DOOMSDAY BLUES.

IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL IN TIMES LIKE THESE, BUT LET SCARECROW ASSURE YOU...

THE END IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

TRUST ME...

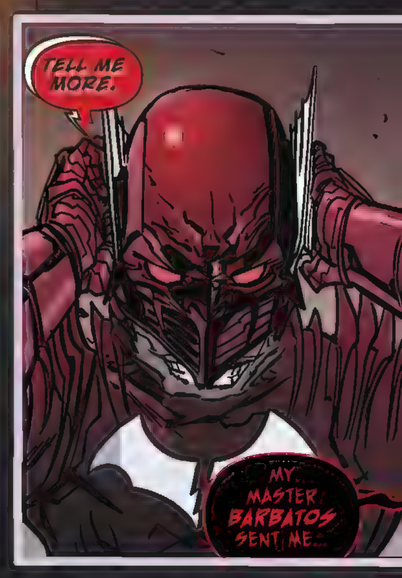
I'M A DOCTOR.

MY NAME IS BRUCE WAYNE.
I AM VENGEANCE.
I AM JUSTICE.
I AM...
BATMAN
THE RED DEATH
PLEASE!

BEFORE I USED TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME ALONE ON ROOFTOPS DWELLING ON MY ACTIONS...
BUT NOW I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK TWICE WITH THE SPEED FORCE.
IT'S RELEASED ME.
I HAVE SAVED GOTHAM.
NOW I WILL SAVE OUR WORLD.
I FINALLY HAVE ALL THE TIME I'LL EVER NEED...
WAYNE TOWER...IS FALLING?! WHAT IS...
...HAPPENING?
THE SKY...

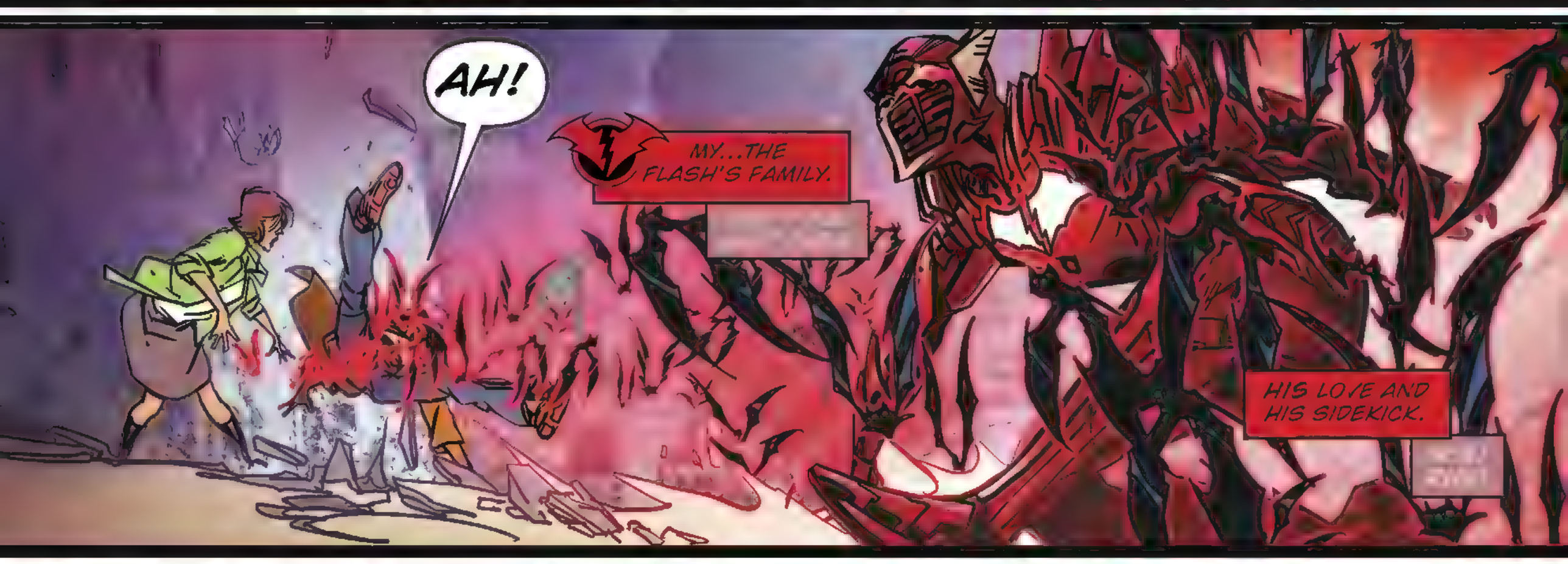
THE WORLD...IT'S BREAKING APART.

I'M NOT FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE IT.



TO FIND A FEW GOOD HEROES WHO COULD CONQUER THAT WORLD TO MAKE A HOME FOR ALL OF US ORPHANED BY THE DARKNESS.
Earth-0. First World of the Multiverse.
WHAT DO YOU SAYS DO WE GOTTA DEAL?
Central City:
THREE DAYS AFTER CHALLENGERS MOUNTAIN APPEARED IN GOTHAM CITY.
THANKS FOR MEETING WITH ME, AUNT IRIS.
HOME OF THE FLASH!
IT'S OKAY, WALLY. I'VE BEEN COVERING THE INCIDENT IN GOTHAM AND NEEDED THE BREAK.
WELL, OFF THE RECORD, BUT SUPERMAN SENT A MESSAGE TO EVERY HERO TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR BATMAN. EVEN ROBIN REACHED OUT AND HE HATES ME.
THAT MEANS WHATEVER IS GOING ON IS REAL BAD.
DOUBT BATMAN WOULD EVER COME TO CENTRAL CITY.
TRUE. WE HAVE OUR HERO, RIGHT?
WALLY...
BARRY SHOULD BE HERE. WITH US.
I ASKED BARRY FOR SOME TIME.
WHAT IF YOU WAIT TOO LONG...
WHAT IS THAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE...

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE CITY?!
WHAT ARE THESE BATS--?

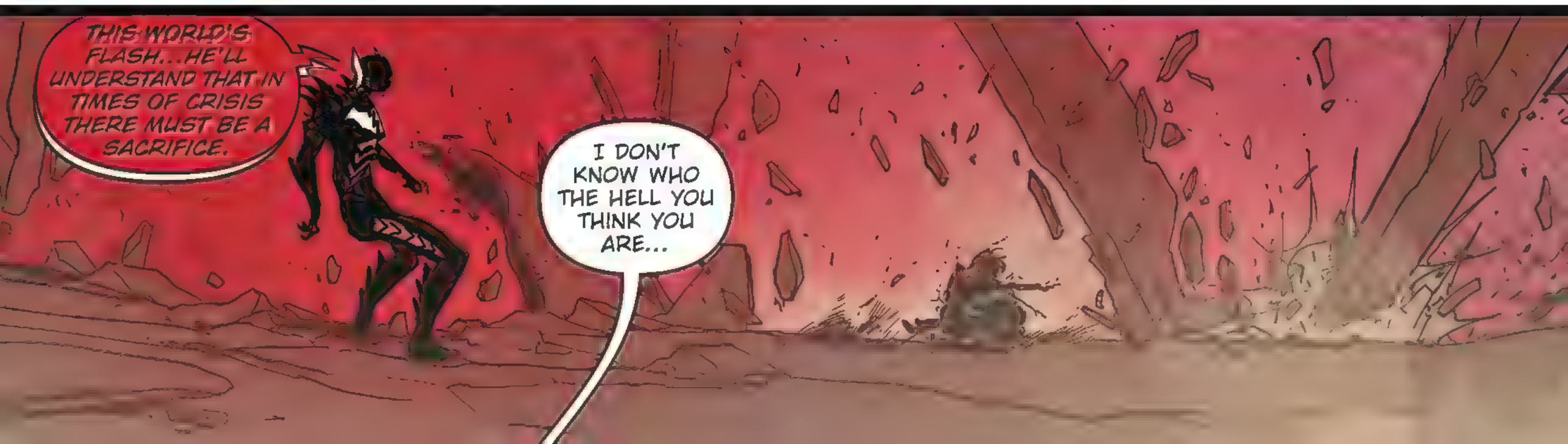

AH!
MY...THE FLASH'S FAMILY.
HIS LOVE AND HIS SIDEKICK.

THE LAST SPEEDSTER WHO HURT MY NEPHEW ENDED UP DEAD.
SO I DON'T CARE HOW SCARY YOUR MASK IS... YOU LEAVE WALLY--
IRIS...?

SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE SPEED FORCE...I'M SO SLOW...

WALLY!
IRIS... YOUR HANDS...

IT'S OKAY, WALLY... WE'LL BE... OKAY...


THIS WORLD'S FLASH...HE'LL UNDERSTAND THAT IN TIMES OF CRISIS THERE MUST BE A SACRIFICE.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU THINK YOU ARE...

--BUT THERE WON'T BE ANY SACRIFICES IN *MY* CITY!

RUNNING IS SORT OF MY THING SO THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE!

*ONCE UPON A TIME I WAS JEALOUS OF YOURS AND CLARK'S LITTLE RACES...*

*...BUT NOW IT DOESN'T MATTER!*

YOUR DRIFT...THOSE *BATS...*

...EVERYTHING HURTS...

...FEEL...

...OLD...

*THERE WILL BE NO MORE RACING, BARRY.*

THAT VOICE...?

BRUCE...?

IS THIS... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER YOU LEFT BLACKHAWK ISLAND?*

** IN METAL #1 --EDDIE.*

IF THERE IS A PART OF YOU INSIDE OF THAT ARMOR, BRUCE...

THEN YOU'RE STILL *MY FRIEND...* AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN COUNT ON...

...IT'S YOUR *COMPASSION.*

*WHAT?*

*IT WON'T SAVE YOU!*

*WE'LL FIGHT AGAIN, FLASH...BARBATOS FORETOLD THE END OF OUR STORY.*

*I WILL TURN CENTRAL CITY INTO THE HOME I LOST!*

AND SAVE MY GOTHAM!

BRUCE, NO!

LET ME TELL YOU A SECRET. ALL IT TAKES IS ONE BAD DAY...

ONE MOMENT THAT SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN, AND THE GROUND BENEATH YOU STARTS TO CRUMBLE. TRUST ME. I KNOW FIRSTHAND. ALL OF US DO.

AND NOW THE SEVEN MOST DANGEROUS BATMEN THAT NEVER WERE ARE HERE TO DRAG YOU INTO THE DARK.

SO YEAH. ONE BAD DAY WILL KILL A WORLD. BUT ONE BAD WEEK?

THAT COULD KILL A MULTIVERSE.

HA HA HA HA HA

THE DARK KNIGHTS CONTINUE TO RISE IN MURDER MACHINE #1

No 1
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Art by RYAN SOOK and the respective original cover artists

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DC ALL ACCESS

# HARLEY QUINN BATMAN DAY

## BATMAN DAY IS BEING TAKEN OVER BY HARLEY QUINN

Are you excited for Batman Day this weekend? In celebration of Harley Quinn's 25th Anniversary, the Clown Princess of Crime will take over DC's annual celebration of the Dark Knight on September 23, 2017.

It's hard to believe that it has been 25 years since Harley Quinn burst into our lives when she debuted on the *Batman: The Animated Series* episode "Joker's Favor," which originally aired in September 1992. Co-created by the Emmy Award-winning producers Paul Dini (*Batman: The Animated Series*, DARK NIGHT: A TRUE BATMAN STORY) and Bruce Timm (*Batman: The Animated Series, Batman Beyond*) Harley Quinn's popularity has exploded and she is now one of DC's biggest characters. Harley stars in her own best-selling comic book series, acclaimed graphic novels and has inspired amazing toys and collectibles based on her many looks from over two decades. She was the breakout character in the *Suicide Squad* movie and the *Batman: Arkham* series of video games. If that wasn't enough to show you how much fans love her, she was the most popular Halloween costume of 2016.

Celebrate 25 years of Harley Quinn at your favorite local comics shop. Look for three different free comic books:

**BATMAN DAY SPECIAL EDITION**–the first chapter of the BATMAN VOL. 3: I AM BANE written by Tom King and illustrated by David Finch, plus an original 3-page story by Amanda Conner, Jimmy Palmiotti and Bret Blevins.

**HARLEY QUINN BATMAN DAY SPECIAL EDITION**–the first chapter of the JOKER LOVES HARLEY graphic novel by Conner, Palmiotti and John Timms.

**DC SUPER HERO GIRLS BATMAN DAY SPECIAL EDITION**–the first chapter of the DCSHG: OUT OF THE BOTTLE graphic novel written by Shea Fontana with art by Marcelo DiChiara and Agnes Garbowska.

Participating stores will also have three different Batman masks illustrated by Ryan Sook in the style of DC Master Class artists, Jim Lee, Andy Kubert and John Romita Jr. and a DCSHG–style Harley Quinn mask by Yancey Labat.

Visit **dccomics.com/batmanday** for more info.

**Make sure to check to see if your local comics shop or bookstore is having an event!**

DON'T MISS **BATMAN DAY!**
**SATURDAY, SEPT. 23**

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